

The New Jersey Department of Human Services **Division of Developmental Disabilities**

1

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS

October 15, 2020



THANK YOU!

2

~ Direct Support Professionals ~
~ Self-Directed Employees ~
~ Support Coordinators ~
~ Individuals/Families ~
~ Providers ~

Today's Webinar Will Provide Information on...

3

- State and DDD-Specific COVID-19 Statistics
- October Webinars
- NEW! Get Covered NJ
- DSP Wage Reporting
- Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19
- Update for FFS Community Vendors
- Clarification on CARI Checks for SCAs
- DDD Resource Team
- Voting Resources
- NJCDD Grant Opportunity
- Resources



New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

4

State of New Jersey	
Positive	215,085
Deaths	14,394

**This update is as of Wednesday, October 14, 2020.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

5

	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	716	153	469	1,338
Deaths	58	32	38	128

DDD-specific statistics are updated weekly. Community data includes individuals **actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.*

Full detail, including data for individuals not under services for whom reporting is voluntary and provided for informational purposes only, can be found at [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](#).

DDD October Webinar Schedule

6

- Remaining October update webinar:
 - October 29, 2020 – 10:30 am.

- Register once for October webinars:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7684397016242693390>.

Get Covered NJ

- In an [October 14 press release](#), Gov. Murphy announced launch of State-based health insurance marketplace, *Get Covered New Jersey*.
 - Effective November 1st, New Jersey residents will now enroll in Marketplace health insurance plans at [GetCovered.NJ.gov](#), a one-stop shop for health insurance for residents who do not have coverage from an employer or other program.
 - Residents can browse plans and check for financial help ahead of November 1st ACA Open Enrollment Period
 - New State subsidies will lower health plan costs, making average premiums for eligible residents lowest since start of ACA Exchanges.

DSP Wage Reporting

8

- The Division distributed instructions and template for reporting of FY20 DSP wage increase last week.
- This is a requirement of the FY20 Appropriations Act.
- Provider wage report must cover the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 and must demonstrate that the provider passed the wage increase through to all DSPs.

Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19

9

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law March 18, 2020, prohibits all Medicaid terminations during the course of the public health emergency.
 - All individuals scheduled for termination of coverage throughout the crisis will remain covered until their information is renewed at the end of the crisis.

Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19

10

- Federal stimulus payments received by Medicaid/CHIP beneficiaries will not be included in countable income and resource calculations for determining eligibility for 12 months.
- The stimulus payments will need to be expended within 12 months or they will be considered countable income.

Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19

11

- Federal emergency increases in unemployment insurance payments of \$600 per week shall be disregarded when determining eligibility for Medicaid.
- These increases may be paid retroactively to January 27, 2020. The monthly portion of unemployment insurance payments made by the State of NJ shall continue to be counted as appropriate for the specific Medicaid program.

Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19

12

- Beneficiaries enrolled in the NJ WorkAbility program will not lose eligibility if they have temporarily lost employment during the COVID-19 emergency.
- For full detail, please review [Medicaid Communication 20-04](#) (*Guidance for Eligibility Determining Agencies – COVID-19 Emergency*)

Update for FFS Community Vendors

13

- The Division has two self-directed service models in the fee-for-service system, with two different fiscal intermediaries (FI):
 - Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent model, with Public Partnerships LLC (PPL) as the FI.
 - Agency with Choice model, with Easterseals NJ as the FI.

Update for FFS Community Vendors

14

- Support coordinators need to ensure that community vendors (Goods & Services, Environmental Modifications, Vehicle Modifications, Single Passenger Rate Transportation) receive an up-to-date Service Detail Report so the vendor is aware of which FI they will be billing to.

CARI Checks

15

- August 7, 2017: N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f expanded to require Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background checks for employees of facilities or programs licensed, contracted or regulated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
- CARI checks are implemented by Office of Program Integrity and Accountability (OPIA) in **two phases**.

CARI Checks – Phase II

16

- Phase I covered *prospective employees* and required CARI checks for anyone hired on or after July 16, 2018.
- Phase II requires CARI checks of all existing employees, including all self-directed employees (SDEs) and all **support coordination agency staff**.
- Provider agencies, **support coordination agencies**, and fiscal intermediaries must begin Phase II by **October 15, 2020** and should have a record of a completed CARI check on file for every employee/SDE by **December 31, 2020**.

CARI Checks – Phase II

17

- Every provider agency, **support coordination agency**, and FI has/will create a CARI account via Department of Children and Families [Online CARI Check Service](#).
 - ✦ Provider agency employees complete the online CARI application on-site or through an emailed link.
 - ✦ SDEs complete the online CARI application through an emailed link.
 - ✦ Employee/SDE link expires after two weeks.
 - ✦ SDEs and DSPs will need to monitor their email.
 - ✦ Questions should be directed to the DHS Employment Controls and Compliance Unit (ECCU) Helpdesk:
DHS.ECCU@dhs.state.nj.us



DDD Resource Team

18

- The DDD Resource Team has partnered with the Rutgers [Community Living Education Project](#) to provide [The Basics of Behavioral Supports Webinar Series](#).
- The series focuses on introducing participants to basic behavioral supports based on the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis.
- Please visit [The Basics of Behavioral Supports Webinar Series](#) link to register.

DDD Resource Team

19

Health and Safety Bulletins:

<u>Preventing Aspiration</u>	<u>Preventing Choking</u>	<u>Preventing Constipation</u>
<u>Preventing Dehydration</u>	<u>Preventing Falls</u>	<u>Preventing Pressure Ulcers</u>
<u>Preventing Seizures</u>	<u>Communication</u>	<u>Oral Care</u>
<u>Pica</u>	<u>Thickeners</u>	

Health and Safety Videos (NJDHS YouTube Channel)

[Managing Dysphagia - Diet Textures](#)

[Managing Dysphagia - Thickening Liquids](#)

[Managing Dysphagia - General Feeding Guidelines](#)

DDD Resource Team

20

- For more information about DDD's health and safety resources, contact Resource Team Supervisor Katie Zappe at 609.984.5222 or email DDD.ResourceTeam@dhs.nj.gov
- Request a Resource Team consultation using these forms:
 - [Behavior Analyst Consultation Referral](#)
 - [Speech Pathology Consultation Referral](#)

Voting Resources

21

- Download *Voting, It's Your Right*, a guide about voting rights and the voting process in NJ, by visiting The Boggs Center's [Voting, It's Your Right](#) webpage.



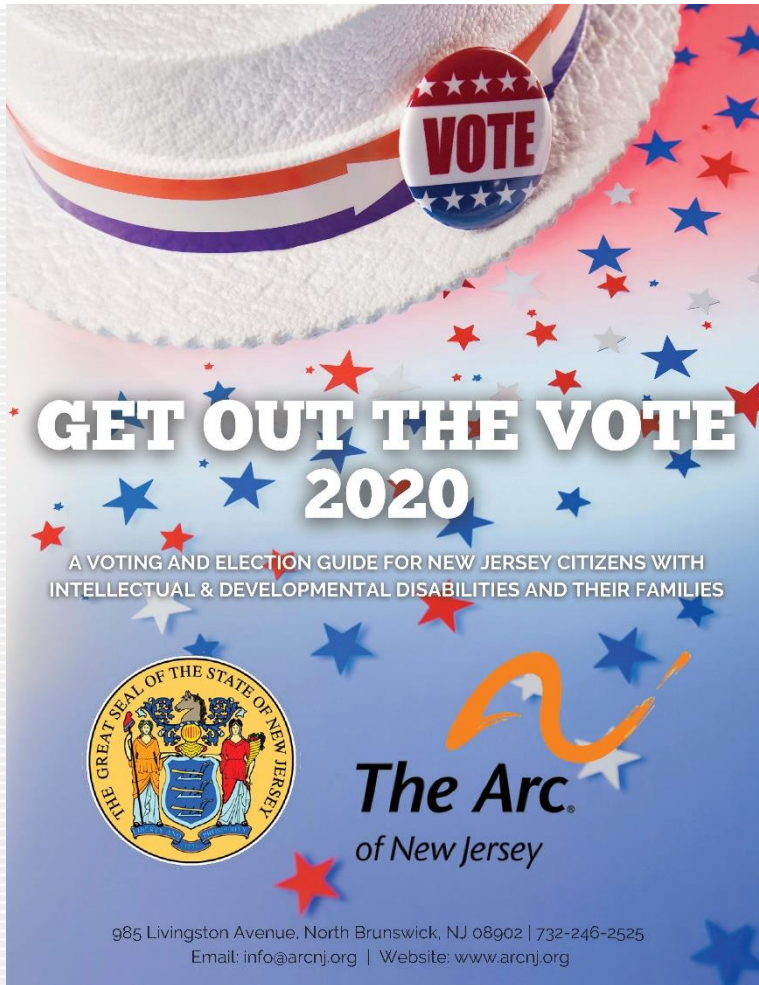
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Voting Resources

22

- Download The Arc of NJ's voting and election guide, *Get Out The Vote (GOTV) 2020*, and find other voting resources for people with I/DD and their families at [GOTV 2020](#).



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Voting Resources

23

- Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) has free voting resources available for individuals with I/DD, families and organizations:
 - ✦ **Staff Trainings** for organizations serving I/DD communities, both residential and community-based.
 - ✦ **Voting Presentations** for families of people with I/DD.
 - ✦ **Accessible Voting Resources** for those with I/DD.
 - ✦ **Voter Question Hotline:** 1.866.493.0023 | voterhotline@drnj.org (operating during regular business hours and 7AM to 8PM on Election Day).
- To reach DRNJ about voting resources, please contact aparente@drnj.org.

NJCDD Funding Opportunity

24

- The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) has announced a funding opportunity to develop a framework to advance New Jersey's policies and practices in the area of employment and day services for adults with I/DD so that they align with the vision, philosophy, and promise of the Employment First initiative.
- Visit [NJCDD Funding Opportunity for Employment and Day Services for Adults with I/DD](#)

NJCDD Funding Opportunity

25

- **NJCDD Funding Opportunity Timeline**
 - Proposal Submission Deadline—November 10, 2020, by 2 pm
 - NJCDD Proposal Review—November 16 to December 2, 2020
 - Contract Notification—Not later than December 11, 2020
 - Contract Period—January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021



Fight the Flu

26

Fight the Flu Fact Sheet & Social Story

Available on
The Boggs Center's
[Fight the Flu](#) website

RUTGERS
Robert Wood Johnson
Medical School

THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

FIGHT THE FLU: IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

...more important than ever. The flu shot is the best way to protect against
...and illness requiring care in hospitals already strained by the
...getting the flu shot is important to the disability
...from the CDC.

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GETTING A FLU SHOT: A SOCIAL STORY FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The flu is a virus that can make you very sick. A flu shot puts medicine in your body to protect you from getting very sick. This social story can help you understand why it's important to get a flu shot and what you can expect.



I want to protect myself and the
people around me from getting
sick from the flu.



I only need to get the flu shot
once a year so I don't get very
sick from the flu over the fall and
winter months.

FLU FACT:

The flu shot will not
protect against COVID-19,
but it will reduce the risk
of having serious flu-
related illness at the
same time as COVID-19.



...abilities
...CDC recommends
...to reduce serious
...the flu and having
...act with others who may
...abilities to prevent the flu.
...are sick
...are sick
...have a higher risk of developing serious complications from the
...families, friends, and supporters all play an important role in
...a flu shot.
...and affordable- sometimes even free! Flu shots are offered at
...supermarkets. Your neighborhood might hold flu vaccination clinics at
...municipal buildings. Get vaccinated at a location near you.

Important Resources

27

- NJ Department of Health
24-Hour Hotline: 1.800.222.1222
- NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information
- Contact information for Local Health Departments in NJ
- Contact information for County OEM Coordinators in NJ

Important Resources

28

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1.800.832.9173.
 - When calling, you will be connected with the Division's answering service who will take information about the circumstance and have a Division staff person reach out.
 - For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
 - For COVID-related questions: DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
 - To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1.800.832.9173, then press 1.



Highlighted Resources

29

- For individuals, families and caregivers
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- For individuals:
 - NJ Self-Advocacy Project's [Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series](#)
- For Direct Support Professionals
 - [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs](#)
 - [CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#)